

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LOREN MARK MCKINNON, JR.,

No. C 12-0081 WHA (PR)

Petitioner,

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

v.

SUSAN HUBBARD, Warden,

Respondent.

**INTRODUCTION**

Petitioner, a California prisoner, filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2254. He has paid the filing fee. For the reasons discussed below, respondent is ordered to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

**STATEMENT**

In 2007, petitioner was convicted in Humboldt County Superior Court of attempted murder, assault, vehicle theft, burglary and firearms offenses. The trial court sentenced him to a term of 32 years to life in state prison. The California Court of Appeal affirmed the judgment on appeal, and the California Supreme Court denied a petition for review. Subsequently, petitioner filed habeas petitions in the state courts, but they were all denied. .

**ANALYSIS****A. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

This court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. 2254(a); *Rose v. Hodges*, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975). Habeas corpus petitions must meet heightened pleading requirements. *McFarland v. Scott*, 512 U.S. 849, 856 (1994). An application for a federal writ of habeas corpus filed by a prisoner who is in state custody pursuant to a judgment of a state court must "specify all the grounds for relief which are available to the petitioner ... and shall set forth in summary form the facts supporting each of the grounds thus specified." Rule 2(c) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, 28 U.S.C. foll. 2254. "[N]otice' pleading is not sufficient, for the petition is expected to state facts that point to a 'real possibility of constitutional error.'" Rule 4 Advisory Committee Notes (quoting *Aubut v. Maine*, 431 F.2d 688, 689 (1st Cir. 1970)).

**B. LEGAL CLAIMS**

As grounds for federal habeas relief, petitioner claims: (1) his conviction for attempted murder was supported by insufficient evidence; (2) the trial court failed to give a unanimity instruction to the jury regarding the attempted murder charge; (3) he received ineffective assistance of counsel; and (4) the trial court failed to instruct the jury on the difference between attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon.

When liberally construed, petitioner's claims are cognizable.

**CONCLUSION**

1. The clerk shall mail a copy of this order and the petition with all attachments to the respondent and the respondent's attorney, the Attorney General of the State of California. The clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on the petitioner.

2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within ninety days of the issuance of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted based on

**United States District Court**

For the Northern District of California

1 the claims found cognizable herein. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on  
2 petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that have been transcribed previously  
3 and that are relevant to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

4 If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the  
5 court and serving it on respondent within thirty days of the date the answer is filed.

6 3. Respondent may file, within ninety days, a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds  
7 in lieu of an answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules  
8 Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion, petitioner shall file with the  
9 court and serve on respondent an opposition or statement of non-opposition within thirty days  
10 of the date the motion is filed, and respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner a  
11 reply within fifteen days of the date any opposition is filed.

12 4. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the court must be served on  
13 respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's counsel. Petitioner must  
14 keep the court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's orders in a  
15 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute  
16 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). *See Martinez v. Johnson*, 104 F.3d 769, 772  
17 (5th Cir. 1997) (Rule 41(b) applicable in habeas cases).

18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

19  
20 Dated: March 22, 2012.  
21

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE